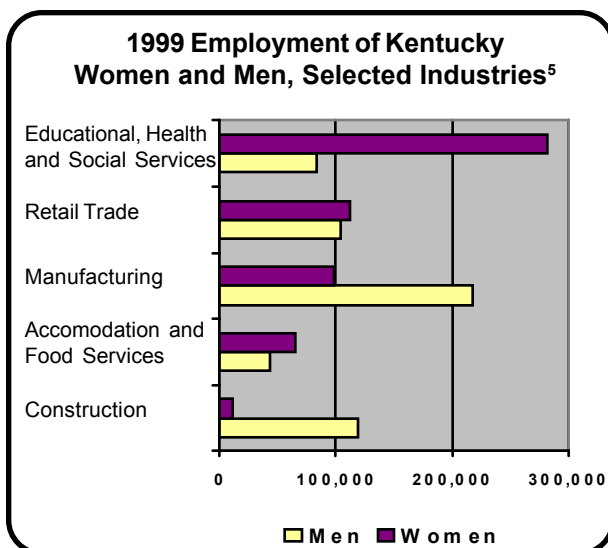


Women's Employment

- In 1999, 54.4% of women in Kentucky participated in the labor force.⁵
- Kentucky ranks 40th in the U.S. for women's labor force participation.¹
- Kentucky ranks 47th in the U.S. for women's overall employment and earnings.¹
- Only 23.4% of businesses in Kentucky were owned by women in 1997. Kentucky ranks 46th in the U.S. for women's business ownership.¹
- In 1999, the unemployment rate for African-American women in Kentucky was 6.5%, more than twice the unemployment rate for white women in Kentucky.⁵
- Both women and men cite lack of affordable or accessible childcare as a reason for being unemployed, not working full time, or being underemployed.⁴
- In 2002, fewer than one in twenty-five Kentucky employers offered on-site childcare, and only one in fifty offered childcare subsidies.⁴
- The average childcare cost for one preschooler and one infant is \$157 per week, or \$7,850 annually.⁶

Occupational Segregation

- More than one third of Kentucky's women are employed in education, health and social services. Retail trade, manufacturing, and accomodation and food services are also large employers of women in Kentucky.⁵



Women's Earnings

- Kentucky ranks 39th in the U.S. for women's median annual earnings.¹
- In 1999, the median earnings of Kentucky's women were \$23,285, while the median earnings of Kentucky's men were \$32,357.⁵
- The wage gap between Kentucky's women and men increases with education. Kentucky women earn an average of \$34,109 compared to \$48,580 earned by men with a bachelor's degree. At the doctoral level, Kentucky women earn \$66,737 compared to men's \$112,493.⁶

Women and Poverty

- In 1999, 15.6% of Kentucky women over the age of 18 were living below the poverty line, compared to 11.6% of men.⁵
- The federal poverty level, though used as the criteria to measure poverty status, is an inadequate standard to meet the costs of sustaining families in today's economy.

Did You Know?

- In 1970, minimum wage jobs paid 97% of the federal poverty level. In 2000, minimum wage jobs paid only 75% of the poverty level.^{3*}
- For single mothers in Kentucky with two children, a living wage (one that meets the basic cost of living) is more than twice the federal minimum wage.³

- In Kentucky, more than one-fifth of families with children under the age of 18 are headed by single mothers.¹
- In the United States, 34.3% of single mothers live below the poverty line. However, 42.7% of single mothers in Kentucky live below the poverty line.⁵
- Single mothers in Kentucky who are African-American or Hispanic are more likely to live below the poverty line than those who are white.
- Kentucky's senior women are more likely to live below the poverty line than senior men. The poverty rate for senior women is 16.7%, but 10.5% for senior men.²

Sources: ¹Institute for Women's Policy Research - www.iwpr.org, ²Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center - www.kltprc.net, ³Kentucky Youth Advocates - www.kyyouth.org, ⁴University of Kentucky and University of Louisville, *Interim Report: Kentucky Labor Supply and Demand Surveys* (2002), ⁵Census 2000 (U.S. Census Bureau) - www.census.gov, ⁶Kentucky State Data Center, 2002 - <http://cbpa.louisville.edu/ksdc>
*The minimum wage in Kentucky is \$5.15 per hour, the same as the federal minimum wage.³